Financial irregularities in Victoria Memorial

352. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received serious complaints, including financial irregularities, against a section of Officers at the apex level of management of the prestigious Victoria Memorial in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been entrusted with investigation into the complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the current status of its investigation;

(e) whether the officers at the Victoria Memorial, whose conducts are the subject of CBI probe, have been removed from their posts;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture established under an Act of Parliament. The responsibility for management and administration of the Memorial rest with its Board of Trustees. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is verifying information relating to some of the issues raised in the representations by employees of the Victoria Memorial. Action, if any against the officers found guilty can only be initiated on completion of the said enquiries. In addition, to look into the issues involved in the reports in print media and communications received from employees organization, the Board of Trustees have set up a three member Committee.

Theft of manuscripts and letter from Kolkata National Library

353. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased

to state:

(a) whether National treasure of rare books manuscripts and letters associated with Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sarat Chandra Chatterjee and Sarojini Naidu have been stolen from Kolkata's National Library;

(b) whether the register containing records of the library's rare books division is also untraceable;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has written to the Ministry to take immediate action against the Director of the Library who failed to provide details of the records available there and also financial irregularities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The National Library's treasure of rare books, manuscripts and letters associated with Rabindra Nath Tagore, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sarat Chandra Chatterjee and Sarojini Naidu have been found in tact and not stolen from the Kolkata's National Library.

(b) There was no register, but a catalogue of Library's rare books which corroborates with the stock in the Rare Books Division of the Library.

(c) The catalogue is being used by scholars.

(d) and (e) CAG had reported non-cooperation of the then Director (I/C) National Library with the Audit team. They have stated that this deliberate act of non production of records needs to be viewed seriously by the Government.

Tax evasion by Units in SEZ

354. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated a probe on the SEZ Units indulging in tax evasion by diverting goods and service in the Domestic Tariff Area;

(b) if so, what is the number of such units which are found to be involved in the tax evasion; and

(c) what action has been taken against these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employee strength of State Bank of Travancore

355. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of employees and officers in State Bank of Travancore in the year 2003 and 2008;

(b) what is the number of employees and officers who have left the job on retirement accepting VRS etc. during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of these vacancies are not filled up by new appointments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The strength of employees and officers during the years 2003 and 2008 is as under:-